

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOURA): (a) Yes, Sir. There have been some complaints from power houses in Uttar Pradesh and other coal consumers in the country regarding shortages in weight of coal received, poor quality of coal and delayed delivery of coal.

(b) Government have advised coal companies to strengthen their quality control infrastructure, instal weighbridges for proper weighment, grade the coal correctly, and establish coal handling plants so that all coal is eventually despatched through these plants. Coal companies have also set up national and regional coal consumers councils for redressal of consumers' complaints/grievances.

[English]

HMT Watches for Children

6644. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether HMT proposes to manufacture colourful and attractive watches for children;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cost of such watches; and

(c) the special features of these watches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Details are being finalised. These watches will be mostly in digital range in plastic cases.

[Translation]

Distribution of Essential Commodities through FPS

6645. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat, rice, sugar and other items supplied to the distributors of fair price shops from the foodgrain godowns are substantially underweight;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard during the last three years from the Societies, reputed citizens and important persons by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and the Commissioner, Civil Supply Department;

(d) if so, the details of the complaints thereof and the nature of action being taken on these complaints;

(e) whether there Government propose to ensure the supplies in proper weight to the distributors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Delhi Administration has reported that wheat and rice are issue of Food Corporation of India to Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation for transportation and delivery at the doorsteps of the fair price shops. Bag to bag weighment of foodgrains is done by FCI labour. Stocks of sugar are issued on standard weight basis. As the quantity involved is substantial, variation in the quantity of the bags, due to factors like loss of moisture, multiple handlings and cuts in bags cannot, altogether, be ruled out.